

As we strive to make fire prevention a priority in every American community, we also celebrate the dedication of our Nation's fire and emergency workers—champions of fire safety at the local level. Too often, these brave men and women pay the ultimate price for their faithful service. Last year alone, 100 firefighters died in the line of duty, and more than 95,400 were injured. On Sunday, October 15, 1995, we will pay our respects to these heroic individuals at the 14th annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. To honor their courageous work, let us rededicate ourselves to building a better, safer world for the generations to come.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 8 through October 14, 1995, as Fire Prevention Week. I encourage the people of the United States to plan and actively participate in fire prevention activities this week and throughout the year. I also call upon every citizen to pay tribute to firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty and to those men and women who carry on the noble tradition of service in our communities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 9, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 13.

Statement on Senator Sam Nunn's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

October 9, 1995

For the last 23 years, Senator Nunn has served our country with tireless devotion and

steady leadership. He has earned the respect and appreciation of all Americans for his leadership in national security, defense, and foreign policy. He has urged us to deal with the long term challenges of our economy and to move beyond established political rhetoric to new policies that reward responsibility and work and to strengthen families and communities.

I am grateful for his wise counsel and personal friendship and look forward to his continued leadership in setting the new Democratic agenda and America's agenda in 1996 and beyond. I wish him and his fine family well.

Remarks Announcing the Technology Learning Challenge Grants

October 10, 1995

Thank you, Mr. Vice President, for your outstanding work on this issue. And thank you, Secretary Riley and Secretary Brown, for your work as well.

I want to say a few more things about the people behind me and those in front of me, but if I might, in the beginning, I think it would be appropriate for me to make a few comments about what has happened to the Amtrak train in Arizona.

We believe it was a case of sabotage. And I am profoundly outraged by it. I want to make it clear that we will do everything we can with the Federal Government to catch whoever is responsible. I am determined that we will make sure that in the United States we will have the tools, the means we need to keep the American people safe. We will get to the bottom of this. We will punish those who are responsible. We will not tolerate acts of cowardice like this in the United States, regardless of the motive. And when I know more about it, I'll be glad to comment more about it.

I have just finished a meeting, along with the Vice President and other members of our administration, with leaders who are here behind me, leaders of many of the American companies on the cutting edge of the information age. They are helping to lead our Na-

tion into the world of the 21st century as the strongest economic power in the world.

Two and a half weeks ago in California, I met with some other business leaders, and I called on the representatives of business, government, teachers, schools, parents, students to become involved in a high-tech venture with a guaranteed return. I asked for a national public-private partnership to connect every classroom in America to the information superhighway by the year 2000.

This today, this meeting, is the next step. Today these business and education leaders have joined with me to launch a partnership that will ensure that every child in America is technologically literate for the dawn of the 21st century and that every child in America has the resources, the means, by which to become technologically literate by the dawn of the 21st century.

The idea that every child deserves the opportunity to build a bright future has been at the heart of America's education system and America's entire value system. Education is the way we keep the promise of the American dream to all of our children without regard to their circumstances.

Today, that means computers, knowing how to make the most of them, having teachers who can work with students to make the most of them, and having the right software to make the computers make sense. Technological literacy must become the standard in our country. Preparing children for a lifetime of computer use is just as essential today as teaching them the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

This isn't just computers for computers' sake. We're going to work together to help our schools use technology to revolutionize American education so that all children will be able to learn better and teachers will be able to be more effective.

In the next few months, the leaders here behind me will be working with us to produce a plan based on the four pillars I outlined in California: modern computers in every classroom, accessible to every student from kindergarten through the 12th grade; connections from every classroom to the incredible educational resources flowing throughout the world; teachers in every classroom who are trained to make the most of

new technology to educate every student—and I want to emphasize, one of the most important aspects of the technological revolution is the opportunities being opened to children so many Americans had given up on and schools that too many Americans had given up on—and finally, a rich array of educational software and information resources.

Today I'm announcing three steps forward that show we are turning these principles into reality. First, we're awarding Technology Learning Challenge Grants to 19 communities. In each community there's a partnership of educators, businesses, libraries, museums, and community groups that have come together to retool their schools for the 21st century. They are matching these grants. They are committing hardware and software, hard work, and know-how. For example, in Dover, Delaware, Bell Atlantic, Lightspan Partnership, and the State education department are linking homes and schools through family TV sets to improve reading and arithmetic in the early grades. This is how these partnerships will work.

Let me say that it costs a very modest amount of money. This is one of the discussions we have to have in the weeks ahead as we continue our progress toward a balanced budget. We can balance the budget without cutting back on our commitment to our educational future. For a very small amount of national money, we are leveraging much larger amounts of local resources. And I would say again, this is the kind of thing that the Nation ought to be doing now in the area of education and the sort of thing I will be trying to preserve as we negotiate the shoals of the budget discussions.

The second thing I want to announce is a private sector effort making a difference in one State is now going nationwide. We must rely on the expertise of millions of Americans working in the high-tech professions. The Technology Corps brings private sector volunteers into our schools so that they can bring technology into our classrooms. It's already working in Massachusetts where it was started by Gary Beach, who is here with us today, to connect Massachusetts schools. And now we want to do this around the country.

Finally, we're launching the American Technology Honor Society to harness the high-tech skills of exceptional students so they can help to expand their own school's use of technology. We have to remember that people born in the information age are more comfortable with it than people like me, who weren't. *[Laughter]*

The American Technology Honor Society will be rooted in the National Honor Society, and it will be run by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Communities, businesses, and governments; parents, teachers, and students—this could be the largest merger in history, with no questions from the Justice Department. *[Laughter]* Certainly it will be the most important partnership for the future in the United States today, working together to put a computer in every classroom and a computer whiz at every desk.

Every child in America deserves the chance to get the high-tech know-how to unlock the promises of the 21st century—every child in America. And thanks to the statesmanship and vision of the people who are here with me today and many like them all around America, we are going to forge a partnership to do just that.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:28 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Remarks Welcoming President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico

October 10, 1995

President and Mrs. Zedillo, members of the Mexican delegation, distinguished guests. On behalf of the American people, it is my honor to welcome you to the United States as our neighbors, our partners, and our friends.

I know I speak for all Americans when I send my condolences to the victims of yesterday's terrible earthquake in western Mexico and to their families. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the people of your nation as the relief effort gets underway.

Mr. President, the bonds between our nations have never been stronger or more important. Over the last decade and with re-

newed vitality since you took office, Mexico has embarked upon a course of political and economic transformation. Openness and participation are the watchwords of the future as the people of your great nation take control of shaping their destiny.

Mexico's triumph in this epic endeavor will be America's triumph as well. A prosperous Mexico will be an even greater partner in trade, and this means more high-paying jobs for citizens in both our nations. A strong, democratic Mexico will be an even more effective partner in the struggle against drugs and crime and pollution.

President Zedillo, the American people are proud to support your efforts. We know we share a stake in your success. That is why, when Mexico fell into financial crisis, the United States answered with action, not only for the sake of the Mexican people but also for the sake of thousands of Americans whose jobs depend upon Mexico's well-being.

We saw the threat of economic dislocation all along our 2,000-mile border, and we recognized that trouble next door would spread to other markets all around the world. The United States, with bipartisan backing, assembled a package of international support to help lift the Mexican economy back on track. And you, President Zedillo, rose to your daunting challenge with courage and determination. You implemented hard measures to stabilize the economy, while holding to the road of reform. You knew that the costs of your action were high but the costs of inaction were far greater. You recognized your truly historic responsibilities, and you met them.

We overcame tough challenges by making tough decisions and by standing together and standing firm for the long-term best interests of both our nations. Mexico's early repayment of \$700 million serves proof that our actions were proper and that they will be rewarded. The Mexican economy has turned the corner, and the markets have taken notice.

The North American Free Trade Agreement helped to speed the recovery of international confidence. Even during the financial crisis, Mexico kept its NAFTA commitments, lowering its tariffs on American products. Today, despite the economic downturn,